



**News Release**

For Immediate Release

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**USADF Announces Turkana Food Security Program:  
*Funding will Provide for a Five Year Food Security and Economic Development Plan***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – August 3, 2010 – The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) announced its intention to provide funding for a five year food security and economic development program to aid the Turkana region in the Republic of Kenya. The announcement came during the AGOA Ministerial Forum in Washington, D.C.

In a signing ceremony for the Turkana Food Security Program, USADF Chairman Jack Leslie noted that USADF is eager to begin work in the region. “We look forward to working closely with these remote communities to expand their access to resources and job opportunities,” Mr. Leslie stated. “This is the Foundation’s largest commitment in Africa.”

USADF will invest \$2M annually for 5 years, contingent on continued appropriations from the United States Congress, to support economic development and income generation projects in the arid regions around Lake Turkana in Northern Kenya. These projects will be designed and led by the community members themselves, with support and funding from USADF. The region has both high unemployment and food insecurity but few sustainable job opportunities.

Lloyd Pierson, President and CEO of USADF, remarked “The Foundation will work quickly to begin disbursing funds to groups in the Republic of Kenya. The people living in the Turkana Region are some of the most marginalized people on the continent and funds will directly and positively impact their quality of life.”

Sectors targeted for initial funding include irrigation, livestock, and agribusiness. The investments will support the local need for food while providing goods that can be sold at local and other markets for income.

Kenyan and American government officials taking part in the AGOA Ministerial Forum participated in the signing ceremony.

*The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) is an independent foreign assistance arm of the United States Government dedicated to expanding access to economic opportunities to marginalized populations in Africa. Currently, USADF operates in 20 Sub-Saharan African countries. Over the past 25 years, USADF has funded in excess of \$200 million in African initiated and led development projects. For more information on USADF, its programs and application guidelines, visit [www.usadf.gov](http://www.usadf.gov).*

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